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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/597,866	06/20/2000	Michael James Heller	255/040	5697

34263 7590 10/07/2004

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EXAMINER

FORMAN, BETTY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1634

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/597,866	Applicant(s) HELLER ET AL.	
	Examiner BJ Forman	Art Unit 1634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 56-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 56-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1634

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 29 July 2004 has been entered.

Status of the Claims

2. This action is in response to papers filed 29 July 2004 in which claim 56 was amended and claims 49-55 were canceled. The amendments have been thoroughly reviewed and entered.

The previous rejections in the Office Action dated 30 March 2004 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph are withdrawn in view of the amendments. The previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are maintained as detailed below. Applicant's arguments have been thoroughly reviewed and are discussed below.

Claims 56-69 are under prosecution.

Priority

Reiterated from previous office action

3. Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is acknowledged. However, the parent applications filed prior to 09/27/1995 upon which priority is claimed fails to provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 for claims 56-69 of this application. The instant claims are drawn to an apparatus comprising a printed circuit board, and a fluidic system comprising an inlet port, outlet port and optical window. Parent applications filed 09/09/1994; 07/07/1994 and 11/01/1993 do not disclose these limitations. Therefore, the

Art Unit: 1634

parent applications filed prior to 09/27/1995 do not provide support for the instant claims.

As such, the effective filing date for the instant claims is 09/27/1995.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 56-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,846,708, filed 23 April 1992) in view of Wilding et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,026, filed 14 November 1994).

Regarding Claim 56, Hollis et al. disclose an apparatus for detection of a biological reaction between a sample and an active area of a biochip comprising: a circuit board (Column 14, lines 49-65), a biochip having an active area disposed on the circuit board, a gel permeation layer (Column 21, lines 43-47), and a fluidic system comprising an inlet port and an outlet port (Column 14, lines 26-65 and Fig. 18-20). Hollis et al. do not disclose their apparatus comprising an adhesive that mounts the biochip to the circuit board and they do not teach the fluidic system comprises a window. However, Wilding et al. teach a similar apparatus comprising a biochip and a fluidic system wherein the fluidic system further comprises an optical window which facilitates dynamic viewing the contents of the apparatus (Column 10, lines 17-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to modify the fluidic system of Hollis et al. by incorporating a window into the apparatus as taught by Wilding et al. for the expected benefit of facilitating dynamic viewing the contents of the apparatus as taught by Wilding et al. (Column

Art Unit: 1634

10, lines 17-28). It would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to modify the apparatus of Hollis et al by incorporating the adhesive mounting taught by Wilding et al for the expected benefit of securely engaging the biochip within the apparatus as taught by Wilding et al (Column 13, lines 26-35).

Hollis et al teach a flow cell as broadly claimed wherein the flow cell connects the inlet and outlet ports (Fig. 19) and wherein the upper portion of the flow cell is planer, parallel to the biochip and offset from the flowpath i.e. laser-radiation-permeable films and/or glass (Column 14, line 34 and 44) and Fig. 19 illustrating the laser-permeable film over the array 12' offset from the planer portions of the flow cell.

Furthermore, Wilding et al teach the flow cell comprising a window wherein the window has a planar surface offset from the plane formed by the flow cell i.e. the window is a transparent cover offset from the biochip and flow cell (Column 10, lines 17-28 and Fig. 1, #29).

Regarding Claim 57, Hollis et al disclose the apparatus wherein the fluidic system is in direct contact with the biochip (Column 6, lines 40-41 and Fig. 1-4).

Regarding Claim 58, Hollis et al disclose the apparatus includes a flow cell (Column 6, lines 29-67 and Fig. 1-4).

Regarding Claim 59, Hollis et al disclose the apparatus wherein the flow cell substantially surrounds the active area of the biochip (Column 6, lines 29-67 and Fig. 1-4).

Regarding Claim 60, Wilding et al teach their similar apparatus wherein the optical window is a ports window i.e. the ports (# 14 & #16) traverse the window (#29) (see Fig. 1).

Regarding Claim 61, Hollis et al disclose the apparatus wherein the flow cell has a defined volume i.e. flow cells of defined size also have defined volume (Column 15, lines 12-37).

Regarding Claim 62, Hollis et al disclose the apparatus wherein the flow cell has a defined volume i.e. flow cells of defined size also have defined volume (Column 15, lines 12-37) but they are silent regarding the volume of the flow cell. However, Wilding et al teach the

Art Unit: 1634

similar apparatus wherein the flow cell has a defined volume from substantially 5 to 10 μ l (Column 16, lines 9-12) wherein samples having a very small are efficiently analyzed (Column 3, lines 12-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to apply the μ l volumes taught by Wilding et al to the apparatus of Hollis et al for the expected benefit of efficiently and rapidly analyzing sample of very small size as taught by Wilding et al (Column 3, lines 12-65).

Regarding Claims 63 and 64, Hollis et al disclose the apparatus comprising an outlet port whereby fluid is transferred out of the apparatus (see right side of Fig. 19) but they are silent regarding a reservoir attached to the outlet. However, Wilding et al teach the similar apparatus wherein a reservoir (i.e. a receptacle of adequate capacity) is attached to the outlet whereby sample and reaction products are safely contained for disposal (Column 19, lines 48-54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to apply the reservoir (e.g. tube) of Wilding et al to the outlet port of Hollis et al for the expected benefit of safely containing fluids to be disposed as taught by Wilding et al (Column 19, lines 48-54).

Regarding Claim 65, Wilding et al teach their waste reservoir is appropriately sized to contain fluids (Column 19, lines 48-54), which clearly suggests that the reservoir is expandable/changeable to accommodate various samples. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to modify the reservoirs of Hollis et al and Wilding et al as suggested by the Wilding et al and to provide an expandable waste reservoir to thereby accommodate various size samples and reagent volumes (Column 19, lines 48-54).

Regarding Claim 66, Hollis et al. do not teach the circuit board is a PCMCIA board. However, The courts have stated that the greater the physical similarities between the claimed species and any species disclosed in the prior art, the greater the expectation that the claimed subject matter will function in an equivalent manner (see *Dillon*, 99 F.2d at 696, 16 USPQ2d at

Art Unit: 1634

1904). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to modify circuit board of Hollis et al. with the claimed PCMCIA board based on the functional and physical similarities between the PCMCIA board and circuit board of Hollis et al.

Regarding Claim 67, Hollis et al. disclose the circuit board further including wires connecting the biochip to the circuit board (Column 4, lines 23-31 and Fig. 1).

Regarding Claim 68, Hollis et al. disclose the circuit board wherein the wires are embedded in a protective material i.e. semiconductor or dielectric material (Column 14, lines 42-48).

Regarding Claim 69, Hollis et al disclose the apparatus comprising a fluidic system comprising an inlet port and an outlet port (Column 14, lines 26-65 and Fig. 18-20) but they do not teach the apparatus further comprises a window. However, Wilding et al teach their similar apparatus comprising a fluidic system wherein the fluidic system further comprises an optical window having a planar bottom surface parallel to the upper surface of the biochip wherein the inlet and outlet ports are above the upper surface of the biochip (Fig. 1). Wilding et al further teach that the arrangement of their apparatus facilitates dynamic viewing of the contents of the apparatus (Column 10, lines 17-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to modify the apparatus of Hollis et al by incorporating the optical window and surface inlet and outlet ports as taught by Wilding et al for the expected benefits of facilitating dynamic viewing the contents of the apparatus as taught by Wilding et al (Column 10, lines 17-28).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant asserts that neither Hollis nor Wilding teach or suggest the optical window as defined in the claims as amended. The arguments have been considered but are not found persuasive because as stated above, Hollis et al teach a flow cell wherein the upper portion of the flow cell is planar and offset from other portions of the flow cell as newly claimed (Fig. 19).

Art Unit: 1634

Furthermore, Wilding et al teach the flow cell comprising a window wherein the window has a planar surface offset from the plane formed by the flow cell i.e. the window is a transparent cover offset (via bonding layer) from the biochip and flow cell (Column 10, lines 17-28 and Fig. 1, #29).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BJ Forman whose telephone number is (571) 272-0741. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 TO 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on (571) 272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

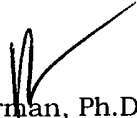
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For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Application/Control Number: 09/597,866

Page 8

Art Unit: 1634

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BJ Forman', is positioned above the printed name.

BJ Forman, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1634
September 27, 2004